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defects in the law are apparent, and the need of further legislation is beginning to be felt.

The fifteenth number of a series of remarkable publications, edited by Dr. Zacher, is devoted to workingmen's insurance in Spain. Other numbers in this series treat of workingmen's insurance in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, France, Great Britain, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Russia, Finland, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, and Luxemburg. The author promises to follow these special studies with a comprehensive statistical and critical study based upon this wide survey of practical experience, and to present such conclusions as seem warranted, his object being to bring into sharper contrast the bright and dark sides of this new social-democratic movement undertaken in the interests of workingmen and of social peace.

JOHN CUMMINGS.

Syndicats ouvriers, fédérations, bourses du travail. By LÉON DE SEILHAC. Paris: Armand Colin, 1902. 12mo, pp. xii + 341.

M. DE SEILHAC in his account of trades unions deals with the history and practical technique of labor organization in France, concerning himself chiefly with the course of legislation and with the historical development of the more powerful organizations from the period of the French Revolution down to the present time. The struggle of the labor unions for the right to exist, for recognition and power, is followed in detail throughout the century, and the economic conditions are indicated which have determined the character and extent of organization.

Among wage-earners themselves, as M. Seilhac shows, there has been no singleness of purpose. Co-operative associations, friendly societies, and trades unions have from time to time conceived a jealous mistrust of one another which has tended to defeat their common interests, while the spirit of social democracy, which gained its absolute ascendancy during the French Revolution, inspired the oppressive legislation directed during the earlier period against all forms of association among citizens. These were denounced as subversive of individual liberty, and as violations of the natural equality and brotherhood of man. The state would care for the general welfare and common interests of all. Other interests than common ones, as, for example, the special interests of any industrial group of wage-earners, were clearly anti-social, tending to create privileged or protected classes, and to hinder the state in the execution of its beneficent pur-

poses. Accordingly unions of workmen were declared to be highly illegal and were swept out of existence along with the undemocratic institutions of privilege.

All this has a pertinent bearing upon certain live issues involving trade-union action and policy today, when among writers who deal with labor problems the disposition is so greatly in evidence to see in the organization of wage-earners for control over the conditions of their employment simply an extension of democratic principles into the field of industry. The trend of the labor movement is said to be toward industrial democracy. Its animus is reaction from industrial autocracy, which is conceived to be altogether anachronistic and inconsistent with our political and social organization. The struggle of the labor union for recognition and power has its political analogy in the struggle of the commoners of England against the royal prerogatives and divine rights of the crown; it is an effort to create a modified "constitutional" hierarchy, in which wage agreements or compacts, entered into between the accredited representatives of the two great estates of labor and capital, shall serve as instruments of government, defining prerogatives and mutual cessions of power and privilege in the direction and performance of labor. Thus the old régime of industrial absolutism is passing away and the period of limited or constitutional government is begun. The history of this movement is just beginning to be written and M. de Seilhac's account shows that in France the trade union has had to fight that very spirit of democracy which is now appealed to so generally in its behalf.

The policy of suppression, begun in the name of liberty, equality, and fraternity, continued in one or another form of legislative restriction throughout the greater portion of the century—though the spirit of the letter changed—until brought gradually into discredit and finally abandoned in the early eighties. During the last two decades, since the important legislation of 1884, the legal right of wage-earners to organize has been fully conceded.

What is of still more significance, however, than the mere remission of legislative restrictions is the fact that wage-earners have been practically protected in the exercise of privileges guaranteed them by statute. It has not infrequently occurred in the past that the law has been defied and successfully nullified. This disregard and breaking down of legal privileges has constituted a great grievance among unionists, and it is pretty generally conceded a just one.

M. de Seilhac's chapters descriptive of the organization of labor in France at the present time are particularly noteworthy. Here the great local and national unions and the "mixed" associations of laborers and employers for mutual aid are taken up one by one. These chapters are followed by accounts of the more influential trades-union federations and labor *bourses*. That portion of the volume devoted to labor congresses ought also to be mentioned. M. de Seilhac's work is a contribution of great value to the literature of the labor movement.

J. C.

American Municipal Progress: Chapters in Municipal Sociology. By CHARLES ZUEBLIN. (The Citizens' Library.) New York: The Macmillan Company, 1902. 12mo, pp. 380.

A POPULAR university-extension lecturer has an advantage not only in the habit of clear presentation of ideas, but also in first-hand knowledge of the cities in which he has lectured. Professor Zueblin has made the most of his exceptional opportunities for gathering information about American cities, supplementing his personal observations and the municipal statistics of the Department of Labor by a schedule of inquiries sent to officials of cities of more than 30,000 inhabitants. The result is a work of almost encyclopædic completeness within its somewhat restricted scope. Its object is to tell what American cities are actually doing toward the satisfaction of urban needs; mere forms of municipal organization are referred to only incidentally or not at all. Especially valuable are the chapters on public schools, public libraries, parks and boulevards, and public recreation—subjects which have been slighted by previous writers on American cities, but which afford an encouraging record of progress. There are also chapters on transportation, public works, sanitation, and public buildings, and a final chapter on "Public Control, Ownership and Operation." There are several appendices giving in detail statistical comparisons between leading cities, the cost of track elevation in Chicago, school accommodations in Philadelphia and Chicago, the organization of a "school city," the New York laws providing for illustrated lectures under the auspices of the school authorities, an abridged summary of state laws relating to compulsory education and child labor, a statement of the sanitary condition of the public schools of the District of Columbia, a list of questions asked in an investigation of